

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**JANUARY 29, 2014**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady, David Parker

Absent: Robert McLintock

Acting Town Administrator: Bruce Alexander

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

He announced that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chairman.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Continued Discussion on Warrant Articles for Special Town Meeting**

Mr. Alexander explained that the package he provided Board members had been vetted by the attorney.

Article 1 is the standard report of officers and committees.

Article 2 is to change the address of the appropriation for the Veterans Memorial Park to 410 Newman Avenue.

Article 3 is to change the appropriation of the roof drainage at the library and return the money to the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 4 is a new appropriation from the MCIC fund for an amount provided by DPW to expand, renovate and construct parking lot at 410 Newman Avenue.

Article 5 – Community Preservation Project - Funds for Seekonk Housing Authority. Wording slightly changed by attorney so that the Town would enter into a grant agreement with the recipient.

Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee John Alves was in attendance.

Article 6 is the article written by the attorney for the Charter changes.

Mr. Sagar advised that following the last meeting the Assessors now support the article and will vote for it at Town Meeting.

He noted that the Chairman of the Conservation Commission suggested the Commission should advertising, interview, and narrow it down to a couple of people to present to the town administrator.

Mr. Sagar felt that defeats the purpose of centralizing the authority of the town administrator.

Mr. Parker said he could not support it.

Mr. Brady said there has to be collaboration between the town administrator and the appointing authority (board or committee).

He said, if the Board will not be able to control conditions of employment of department heads, they should not be in the bargaining unit under the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To amend Article 6 to include the language "...following consultation at a properly posted meeting...who shall present a candidate(s) to the town administrator." Such language would be part of all four – Assessors, Conservation Commission, Board of Health and Planning Board.

Article 7 was written by bond counsel and Atty. Goldberg and complies with the law.

Chairman Almeida stated that two members of a committee mentioned to him that the Board had signed a Purchase and Sales Agreement even though legal counsel had advised against it. That is not true. Counsel was present in executive session and advised that the Board was protected. With that, the Board signed.

### **Approve and Sign Warrant for the Special Town Meeting of February 18, 2014**

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve and sign the warrant, as amended, for the Special Town Meeting of February 18, 2014.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion on FY 2015 Budgets as Presented by Director of Finance in Conjunction with Department**

Mr. Alexander reviewed the budget with Board members.

The Town Meeting payroll is prepared by the Town Clerk.

Board of Selectmen payroll is as voted at Town Meeting. Expenses are the same as last year.

Mr. Sagar asked about projected revenues.

Mr. Alexander responded that these expenses are within a range of the projected revenue.

He budgeted a certain figure for town administrator which can be changed later.

He noted that postage and paper prices have increased.

Finance Department – salaries are the same because contracts end this year. On the expense side, changes represent Munis increase. Locked in with the auditor for another year.

Assessor's Office - The only changes in salary are step increases. There is a \$200 increase in the CAMA system contract.

Treasurers – increase in longevity for employees on both collector's and treasurer's side. On expense side, Go Docs – instead of printing paychecks, it will e-mail the stub to the employee. There is a one time set up fee of \$8,250. Office supplies line is reduced.

The cost to advertise in the Sun Chronicle for tax liens has increased substantially.

The Treasurer tries to process as many tax titles in a year as was budgeted. She usually runs out in April. She has asked for an additional \$5,000 for that. Seekonk has a collection rate of almost 99%.

The Reserve Fund is always at \$100,000. Mr. Alexander transferred \$47,000 last year. He has some advisories for this year but no transfers. Those are election advisories.

The increase in MIS includes Munis. The Contracted Services line went up \$19,000. Previously, he budgeted for four hours a week and the Police Department covered the other four hours. It is now all in this department and will be an offset in the police budget.

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Mr. Alexander budgeted for DPW and Assessors for GIS. Planning wants to be part of the GIS system.

Town Clerk - \$700 Consultant and Maintenance is an audit of the basement. Three staff people are in charge of that.

The Town Clerk has budgeted for the assistant to attend training next year. Her budget reflects elections for next year.

Planning Board salaries and expenses are the same. Zoning Board is the same.

Building Inspector - They need to look at this further.

Mr. Parker said the pay for assistant building inspector is insufficient and not enough hours.

Mr. Alexander noted that Mr. Stenhouse will interview applicants next week.

Emergency Management – This is where the money came from to cover the snow and ice last year. The cost of the fence at the Maple Avenue property - \$2,500.

Animal control – small adjustment in salary account. The cell phones are with Verizon. Costs depend on usage and the phone.

Forestry – Mr. Brady suggested this should be increased.

School Committee is set at Town Meeting. The Tri-County assessment is usually not available until mid-February.

Bristol County Agricultural – There are four students.

Conservation Commission – The Conservation Agent would like to get on the on-line permitting system. The Planning Department does also.

Mr. Alexander noted it was installed as part of a grant.

Board of Health has budgeted for an additional part time food inspector – 10 hours per week.

Mr. Brady wanted more information.

Parks and Recreation – Mr. Alexander noted that he budgeted for a full time director at the request of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Sagar said that department has come a long way. He would like to see a collaboration of recreation, library and human services.

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Mr. Alexander advised that he had recommended that the Recreation Director should be located at the library. Right now there is no space. The other alternative would be the new senior center.

Mr. Brady felt there should also be coordination with the School Department.

Mr. Sagar asked what a full time recreation director would do as opposed to part time.

Mr. Neil Rapp, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, explained the duties. The Recreation program continues to grow.

Veterans Services – Mr. Alexander noted that the Board requested part time clerical help – 19.5 hours per week. Space is a problem. The only area would be in the Finance Department.

There is \$5,000 for the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Sagar felt there should be a \$5,000 line item for parade expense.

Mr. Alexander and Veterans Agent Seth Bai agreed on a figure for veterans benefits.

Chairman Almeida talked about consolidating services with Rehoboth and Swansea.

Mr. Brady was pleased that the bond rating went up.

Mr. Alexander said that health insurance figure is unknown right now.

He noted that Town Treasurer Chris DeFontes is chair of the Bristol County Advisory Board.

He said the Sanitation Enterprise Fund should be discussed with DPW Superintendent Robert Lamoureux.

Mr. Alexander advised that Mr. Stenhouse is talking to the prospective communications director.

Further discussion on budgets at the February 11, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Parker stated that the Charter requires that the Town Meeting date should be scheduled on the first meeting in February.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting**

None.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Alexander advised that there have been resignations from the MCIC.

Mr. Parker noted that the moderator has asked residents to come forward to serve on the MCIC. Currently, there is no quorum so they cannot take any votes.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Sagar suggested the Board vote on February 5<sup>th</sup> to give the Interim Town Administrator an extension.

He would like to talk to people who resigned from the MCIC to find out why they resigned.

Mr. Parker opposed to that.

Mr. Brady had no problem if the Town Administrator called them for an exit interview.

He noted that the Board would interview the final three candidates for town administrator at the next meeting. The agenda will be amended once the final three are selected by MRI.

Chairman Almeida reminded residents about the Taste of the Town sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Tickets are available from Town Clerk Jan Parker, Mrs. Edith Krekorian, or Mrs. Beverly Hart.

He thanked Mr. Alexander for filling in as Acting Town Administrator.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

None.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sager, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 7:45 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

